## CLASSIFICATION Approved For Release

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CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR 24 JUL 50

SUBJECT Russian Naval Mines off Rugen Island

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE **ACQUIRE** 

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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. During exercises in April 1950, the Russian Navy laid an unknown number of uncharged mines at Rigen Island within the area bounded by straight lines drawn through the following coordinates:

> 540 - 39' - 12" N; 130 - 39' - 42" E 54° - 39' - 12" N; 13° - 33' - 30" E 54° - 37' - 12" N; 13° - 39' - 42" E 54° - 37' - 12" N; 13° - 33' - 30" E

- The mines were all anchored at a depth of two meters below the surface and were connected by electric detonating cables of a type that detonate mines attached to them when the cables are severed. The mines were placed in groups of four or five, linked by one detonating cable, each group forming a semicircle stretching out 30 to 40 meters seaward. In actual operations, the detonating cable reportedly "ignites a galvanic element" when it is cut, thereby causing the detonation of the mines attached to it.
- The western edge of the free channel was made dangerous for shipping, because the mines were placed so close to the line (sic) that damage to the propellers and/or bottoms of passing vessels could easily result. Anchoring in the area was prohibited and punishable by impoundment of ships and crews. The only harbors on Rigen accordingly open were Binz and Sassnitz.

Comment: It is not known whether the mine-laying was a temporary practice operation or whether the mines are a permanent, if dummy, installation to intimidate less well-informed mariners.

> This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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Next Review Date: 2008

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